



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 5120.8

March 20, 1995

Certified Current as of November 21, 2003

ASD(FMP)

SUBJECT: Armed Forces Chaplains Board Charter

- References: (a) DoD Directive 5120.8, subject as above, July 24, 1979 (hereby canceled)
- (b) [DoD Directive 1315.7](#), "Military Personnel Assignments," January 9, 1987
 - (c) [DoD Directive 5105.18](#), "DoD Committee Management Program," January 18, 1990
 - (d) DoD Directive 1320.3, "Military Personnel Performance Evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense," July 19, 1974

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a), and updates the organization, functions, and administration of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board (hereafter referred to as "the Board").

2. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard when it is operating as a Military Service in the Navy), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities. The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Marine Corps.

3. ORGANIZATION

3.1. Under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy (ASD(FMP)) shall exercise authority, direction, and control over the Board.

3.2. The Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs of Chaplains of the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, who constitute the Board, are appointed by the Secretary of Defense in accordance with reference (b).

3.3. A Chair shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense from one of the Chiefs of Chaplains of the Military Departments and shall serve a term of 18 months. The position of the Chair shall be rotated among the three Military Departments.

3.4. A chaplain of a particular religious faith group may be appointed by the Board as a special consultant for matters about that religious faith.

3.5. Each Military Department shall appoint, on a rotational basis, a chaplain as Executive Director, with the approval of the Secretary of the Military Department concerned and the ASD(FMP).

3.5.1. The Executive Director shall serve a 3-year tour that begins July 1.

3.5.2. It is preferable, but not mandatory, that the Executive Director be a member of a Military Department other than that of the Chair.

3.5.3. The Executive Director shall be a chaplain and shall hold the grade of O-6.

3.5.4. The Executive Director shall have no voting rights.

3.5.5. The Executive Director functions under the direction of the Board Chairman and is supervised by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy.

4. FUNCTIONS

4.1. The Board shall make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and the USD(P&R), through the ASD(FMP), on the following:

4.1.1. Religious, ethical, and moral standards for the Military Services and policies for the protection of religious guarantees under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

4.1.2. Policies governing procurement, professional standards, requirements, training, and assignment of military and auxiliary chaplains.

4.1.3. Policies governing procurement and utilization of supplies, equipment, and facilities for religious use.

4.1.4. Policies to promote and maintain harmonious relationships with civilian churches and clergy.

4.1.5. Policies to promote joint military endeavors for the delivery of ministry throughout the Department of Defense whenever practicable.

4.2. The Chair shall serve as the principal advisor to the ASD(FMP) on all Board matters and shall:

4.2.1. Act independently on routine or minor policy matters in behalf of the Board.

4.2.2. Establish advisory committees to conduct studies, assemble information, present recommendations, and otherwise assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities. Advisory committees shall include at least one representative from each Military Department nominated by the respective Chiefs of Chaplains. The Executive Director shall serve as an ex officio member of each committee. Advisory committees shall be established and managed in accordance with DoD Directive 5105.18 (reference (c)).

4.3. The Executive Director shall function within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy (OASD(FMP)) under the direction of the Board Chair and shall:

4.3.1. Perform administrative work associated with Board actions and provide input to proposed DoD Directives and Instructions.

4.3.2. Record the minutes of meetings of the Board and present them to the Board for approval.

4.3.3. Represent the Board on advisory committees as an ex officio member.

4.3.4. Manage the Board's office and staff.

5. ADMINISTRATION

5.1. The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair no less than six times per year. The presence of a minimum of one member from each Military Department shall constitute a quorum.

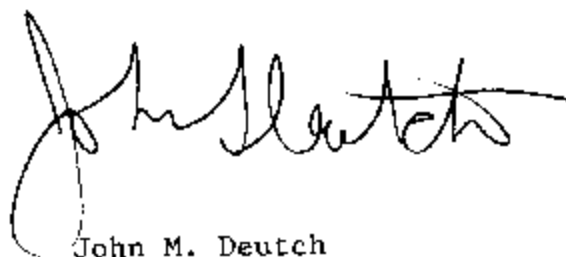
5.2. Secretary and clerical assistance shall be furnished by the OASD(FMP).

5.3. Personnel evaluation reports to be rendered on the Executive Director shall be prepared in accordance with DoD Directive 1320.3 (reference (d)).

5.4. Members of the Board shall be advised promptly of all actions taken in behalf of the Board by the Chair and the Executive Director.

6. EFFECTIVE

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Deutch". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John M. Deutch
Deputy Secretary of Defense